

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## HINGE GUARD

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## 1 Claim. (Cl. 16-86)

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My invention relates to a hinge guard.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a guard for the hinges of doors, the use of which will prevent injury to fingers and hands, as well as other objects which sometimes are crushed when inserted in door jambs.

A further object is to provide a hinge guard of the above-mentioned character which will also function as a snubber or stop to limit the swinging movement of a door.

A further object is to provide a hinge guard of the above-mentioned character formed of rubber or similar material, and having a novel shape or contour in transverse cross-section, such contour resulting in a novel mode of operation or movement of the hinge guard when the door with which it is associated is opened and closed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hinge guard of the above-mentioned character which is resilient and somewhat flexible, so that it will lie substantially flat against the door to which it is applied, when such door is closed.

A still further object is to provide a hinge guard of the above-mentioned character which is capable of a wide variety of applications, and which may be formed to blend in color and shape with adjacent door frames, decorative moldings and the like.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hinge guard for use upon a wide variety of hinge joints, the guard being highly simplified, compact, extremely sturdy and durable and relatively inexpensive to make.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a short section of a hinge guard and door snubber embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view through a door and door jamb, illustrating the application of, as well as the mode of operation of the hinge guard;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary side elevational view, partly diagrammatic and drawn on a reduced scale, for further illustrating the application of the hinge guard to a door; and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary plan view, partly diagrammatic, illustrating a slight modification of the construction and application of the hinge guard.

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In the drawing, where, for the purpose of illustration, are shown preferred embodiments of my invention, attention is directed first to Figures 1 to 3, inclusive, wherein the numeral 10 designates one vertical side of a door frame extending laterally beyond one side of an adjacent wall 11. A horizontally swinging door 12 is hingedly connected with a jamb 16 of the door frame 10 at its vertical edge adjacent to the wall 11 by means of hinges 13. The hinges include the usual flat hinge leaves 14 secured flush with the inner vertical edge 15 of the door 12 and with the jamb 16 of the door frame 10. As shown clearly in Figure 2, the door 12 is swingable upon the hinges 13 from the open position shown in full lines, wherein the door may be substantially parallel with the outer side of the wall 11, to the closed position shown in dotted lines, wherein the door extends at right angles to the jamb 16 and the edge 15 of the door overlaps the jamb 16 with the hinge leaves folded upon each other in the usual manner. As previously stated, two principal purposes of the hinge guard embodying the invention are to limit or snub the swinging movement of the door 12, and to prevent the insertion of the fingers or the like between the jamb 16 and edge 15 of the door when the door is being closed.

My hinge guard is designated generally by the numeral 17 and comprises an elongated, continuous, unitary strip or band 18 formed of rubber, synthetic rubber or like resilient and somewhat flexible material. As shown in Figure 3, the hinge guard 17 may extend for the entire height of the door adjacent to the door jamb, and, if desired, the guard may extend over any chosen portion of the height of the door. As shown in Figure 3, the hinge guard 17 is preferably of uniform width throughout its entire length.

In Figure 1, the hinge guard 17 is shown in its natural or preformed shape which the guard assumes while disconnected from the door and door frame jamb. The hinge guard is composed of a plate-like body or strip having a portion 18 along one side which is flat or planar and relatively thin and of uniform thickness. The laterally outward edge of the portion 18 is gradually increased in cross section to provide an outwardly flaring longitudinal side portion 19 of substantially increased thickness with respect to the portion 18. On the outer edge of the portion 19 is integrally formed a narrow flange 20 extending at an acute angle to the portions 18 and 19 at the outer side thereof. The flange 20 extends